LETTER TO THE A. E. C.

(The proposed underground atobomb tests in the Aleutians are awakening considerable apprehension, largely because of the unstable geological conditions existing in that area. The following letter, addressed to the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (Washington 25, D.C.) seems to us to deserve quotation. The writer of the letter, though a BSR Associate, did not intend it for publication).

Dear Sir:

I am not a scientist. However, for the past several years I have been attending Science Forums conducted by capable scientists and am more informed than the aver - age layman.

I understand that various balances of the earth are so delicately adjusted that even a slight disturbance might set off a catastrophe. I also understand that you are planning to conduct a deep underground A-Bomb test in the Aleutian Islands and that this may set off a chain of earthquakes and other catastrophes.

The average citizen is convinced that atobomb tests already made have upset weather balances and caused many devastating drouths and storms as well as epidemics. In my work I interview thousands of persons and there is a growing awakening on the part of the public to the destructive effects of these tests. I have myself received much scientific information to confirm this. If tests already made have had this effect on the public, how much more will you be held responsible for the devastating underground test you plan which, according to scientists, may set off a chain reaction of earthquakes which will destroy vast areas and millions of inno - cent persons!

You must remember it is these persons who indirectly employ you. You have no right to experiment with your dangerous weapons in any way which may affect the lives and property of vast numbers. You may endanger your own life in any experi - ment you wish to make, but you are in duty bound not to endanger the American and other peoples.

I understand California and adjacent territory may be affected by your contemplated experiment. I have many friends and relatives in the West, and am eager also to protect millions of those whom I do not know. None of us are interested that you satisfy your curiosity as to 'what will happen'. I, personally, having written this letter, will see that you and the persons on your Commission are held responsible.

Sincerely yours: -signed-

Buffalo, N.Y., May 19, 1951.

(To this we add only, that while the world-wide weather disturbances are probably due to a number of causes, competent physicists believe that the bomb tests are partly and largely responsible. As to the 'quakes, there were some 700 recorded shocks during 1950, some of them of extreme severity, volcanic activity is increasing, and the unstable conditions in the Aleutian chain may well be triggered off by the highly dangerous experiments referred to.

M.L.